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at least one notch on the external surface of the brush, the at least one notch comprising a front face and a back face, the back face being non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face.

wherein the front and back faces of the at least one notch intersect one another at a trough line, and

wherein the back face of the at least one notch is defined by bristles having varying lengths.

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91. (Amended) The brush according to claim 84, wherein the elongate core defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least one notch varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least one notch varies along the axis.

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108. (Amended) The brush according to claim 84, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially rectangularly shaped.

109. (Amended) The brush according to claim 84, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially circularly shaped.

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127. (Amended) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush; and

at least one notch on the external surface of the brush, the at least one notch comprising a front face and a back face, the back face being at least in part non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of the at least one notch intersect one another at a trough line, the trough line extending in a direction non-perpendicular to the length of said elongate core, and

wherein the back face of the at least one notch is defined by bristles having varying lengths.

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134. (Amended) The brush according to claim 127, wherein the elongate core defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least one notch varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least one notch varies along the axis.

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151. (Amended) The brush according to claim 127, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially rectangularly shaped.

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152. (Amended) The brush according to claim 127, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially circularly shaped.

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170. (Amended) A brush comprising:
an elongate core;
bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush, the ends of the longest of the bristles defining an envelope surface of the brush; and
at least one notch on the external surface of the brush, the at least one notch comprising a front face and a back face, the back face being non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,
wherein the front and back faces of the at least one notch intersect one another at a trough line,
wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush, and
wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush.

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172. (Amended) The brush according to claim 170, wherein the elongate core defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least one notch varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least one notch varies along the axis.

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201. (Amended) A brush comprising:
an elongate core;
bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external
surface of the brush; and
at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two
notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face
being non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,
wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect
one another at the trough line,
wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the back face
of a second notch, and
wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with an outer edge of the front
face of another notch.

a¹⁰

205. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein the elongate core
defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least two
notches varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least two notches
varies along the axis.

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219. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein a cross-section of
the brush is substantially rectangularly shaped.

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220. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially circularly shaped.

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227. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein the back face of at least one of the at least two notches is rounded and has a radius such that the back face is tangent to the envelope surface of the brush.

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233. (Amended) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush, the ends of the longest of the bristles defining an envelope surface of the brush; and

at least one notch on the external surface of the brush, the at least one notch comprising a front face and a back face, the back face being at least in part non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of the at least one notch intersect one another at a trough line, the trough line extending in a direction non-perpendicular to the length of said elongate core, and

wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush, and

wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush.

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235. (Amended) The brush according to claim 233, wherein the elongate core defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least one notch varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least one notch varies along the axis.

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264. (Amended) A brush comprising:
an elongate core;
bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external
surface of the brush; and
at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two
notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face
being at least in part non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,
wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect
one another at the trough line, the trough line extending in a direction non-
perpendicular to the length of said elongate core, and
wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the back face
of a second notch, and
wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with an outer edge of the front
face of another notch.

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268. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein the elongate core
defines an axis of the brush, and wherein a height of the front face of the at least two
notches varies along the axis and a height of the back face of the at least two notches
varies along the axis.

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282. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein a cross-section of
the brush is substantially rectangularly shaped.

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283. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein a cross-section of the brush is substantially circularly shaped.

A¹⁸

290. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein the back face of at least one of the at least two notches is rounded and has a radius such that the back face is tangent to the envelope surface of the brush.

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305. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein a cross-section of the envelope surface has a substantially circular shape.

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307. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein a cross-section of the envelope surface has a substantially circular shape.

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317. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein at least a portion of the envelope surface has a substantially cylindrical shape.

Q²²

319. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein at least a portion of the envelope surface has a substantially cylindrical shape.

Q²³

329. (Amended) The brush according to claim 201, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein at least a portion of the envelope surface has a substantially conical shape.

Q²⁴

331. (Amended) The brush according to claim 264, wherein ends of the longest of the bristles define an envelope surface of the brush, and wherein at least a portion of the envelope surface has a substantially conical shape.

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Please add the following new claims:

332. (New) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush, the ends of the longest of the bristles defining an envelope surface of the brush; and

at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face being non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect one another at the trough line,

wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush, and

wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with an outer edge of the front face of another notch.

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333. (New) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush; and

at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face being at least in part non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect one another at the trough line, the trough line extending in a direction non-perpendicular to the length of said elongate core, and

wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush, and

wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with an outer edge of the front face of another notch.

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334. (New) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush, the ends of the longest of the bristles defining an envelope surface of the brush; and

at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face being non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect one another at the trough line,

wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the back face of a second notch, and

wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush.

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Q 25
335. (New) A brush comprising:

an elongate core;

bristles extending from said core, ends of said bristles defining an external surface of the brush; and

at least two notches on the external surface of the brush, the at least two notches each comprising a front face, a back face, and a trough line, the back face being at least in part non-concave and asymmetric with respect to the front face,

wherein the front and back faces of each of the at least two notches intersect one another at the trough line, the trough line extending in a direction non-perpendicular to the length of said elongate core, and

wherein an outer edge of the front face of one notch intersects with the back face of a second notch, and

wherein the back face of the one notch intersects with the envelope surface of the brush.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 84, 91, 108, 109, 127, 134, 151, 152, 170, 172, 201, 205, 219, 220, 227, 233, 235, 264, 268, 282, 283, 290, 305, 307, 317, 319, 329, and 331. These amendments have not narrowed the scope of these claims in any way. Applicant has also added new claims 332-335. Claims 1-335 are pending in the application.

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